

The Human Touch

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And More!

Director's Message

I hope the holiday season finds all our DHS employees well and happy. Thank you for everything you have done this year to help our Department achieve great outcomes for Utahns.

Reflecting back on the year I would like to recognize all of the individual award winners among our employees. There are staff who have received recognition from police departments, advocacy groups, and other community organizations. We have demonstrated a good deal of partnership and I appreciate your efforts.

Ethical behavior at work is still a strong focus in our management meetings. I hope you are hearing about an emphasis on ethics from your division and office leadership. I have told you that I will do all I can to represent employees and their interests, both at the legislature where we need funding, and out in the community, where we need support. I will fight for you. However, my efforts will be ineffective if DHS has employees who violate ethics and policy. Those controversies - even if it is just an isolated incident - will undo all the



Lisa-Michele Church
Executive Director

good that has been done by others. If DHS is perceived as an agency that plays fast and loose with ethics, we will get neither support nor funding. This is not the vision I have for the Department, and I know the vast majority of employees are extremely ethical and above reproach. On behalf of all of us, let's recommit to demonstrating a high level of ethics in our worklife.

Enjoy the winter solstice -- I look forward to the New Year!



Congratulations to all Mental Health Art Contest 2007 Winners - see page 3

Purge on Paper

By Rick Hendy, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Amber has always had a love of art. Her Grandpa was an artist, her mom worked with photographs and, as a child, her mom read her stories about Michelangelo and Donatello....the artists, not the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Amber learned, early on, to use artwork as a tool to express her emotions. Without lessons or direction, she began creating masterpieces as early as age 9. "Sometimes I could not figure out how I was feeling," says Amber, "so I used poetry and art to figure it out." She enrolled in Honors Art in junior high and a high school teacher, who quickly recognized her talent, encouraged her to take advanced placement art classes.

As Amber's emotions grew, so did her artwork. It was through Amber's artwork that her mom became aware of her depression and eating disorder. "A lot of people don't understand the artwork and are often repelled by it as opposed to impressed by it," states Sharon, Amber's mom, "but I am glad Amber is able to use it to express how she feels. We call it purge on paper."

During her senior year, Amber was given a 10-hour paper assignment. She decided to write about addictions and supplemented the writing with a poetry journal. Once the journal was complete she made copies and gave them to other young females who were also struggling. "I know how bad it can be and I don't want others to go through what I had to...or worse," Amber stressed.

Amber considers herself a deep thinker, she likes understanding her feelings and not feeling confused; the artwork helps her achieve this. Amber starts with a feeling or thought, puts it in poetry, gets the visual imagery for it and then starts drawing. While attending the public open house Amber and Sharon got the privilege of observing people appreciate her work – the response was incredible. Amber was wowed, "I guess somebody does like it!"



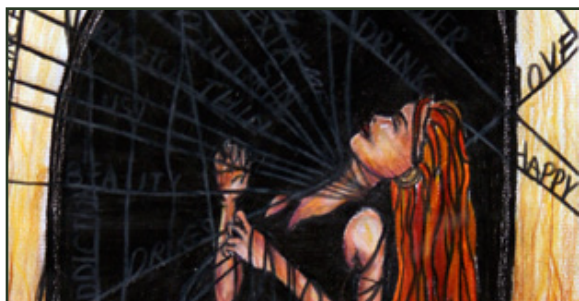
Amber at the Mental Health Art Contest 2007

Amber is currently attending Utah Valley State College and plans to major in social work with a minor in art. She recently began working as a technician at Utah State Developmental Center and, in her free time, enjoys playing and watching soccer, movies with friends and, of course, drawing.

Amber attributes her recovery to the help she received from Center to Center and Children's Justice Center staff. She also recognizes that treatment works best when one wants to change and puts forth the effort to do so.

Rick's personal impression:

Amber is a young woman who experiences some very wide and deep emotions. Meeting her confronted my own judgmental attitudes. Her work is painful to look at and my expectation was to see an individual who was visibly wearing her torment. The opposite could not be more true. Amber is a very healthy, happy college student. This is a good reminder that it doesn't matter who we are, we can experience these intensities of emotion that can be all consuming. I was also impressed with the notion that a way to help herself out of that dark pit of misery was to help others and that often comes through her artwork.



Strangled



Obsession B2



This has meaning in my life because...

This year's department sponsored art contest featured the work of over 120 mental health consumers from across the state. Due to the large number of entries, the art was divided into three categories: Utah State Hospital, Youth and Adult. After a public open house, panel judging and online voting the winners were finally announced during an award event on November 21st. It was a great honor to have the event attended by the finalists and their friends and family. Awards were given as follows:

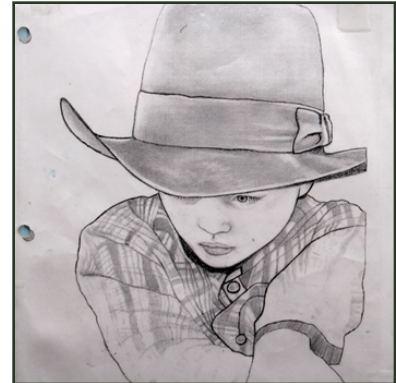
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Excel House - George M.
Grand Prize Winner



Tree Full of Wonders - Adriann A.
DSAMH Board Award Winner

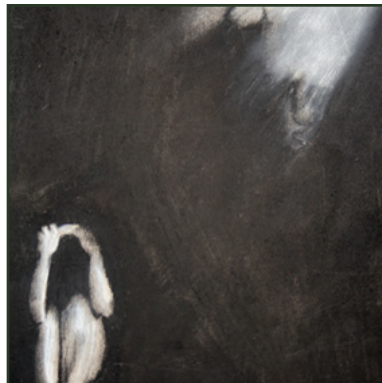


Blazer - Kamie W.
DHS Employee Award Winner

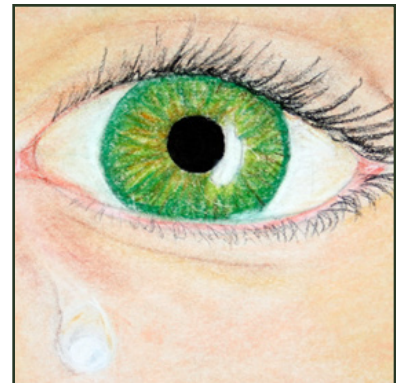
Youth



Subliminally Hypnotic - Amber D.
Grand Prize Winner



Darkness - Amber D.
DSAMH Board Award Winner



Sad Serenity - Amber D.
DHS Employee Award Winner

Adult



Emerging Bird - Abby T.
Grand Prize Winner



Grizzlies in Glacier National Park - Sharon M. DSAMH Board Award



Venice Under Duress - Allannah A.
DHS Employee Award Winner

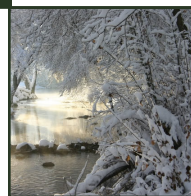
View all finalists: http://www.hsemployees.utah.gov/survey/choose_pic_2007.jsp

Christmas Crochet

By Vickki Carver - Archway Youth Services Center

Debbie Rowe, a teacher at Archway Youth Services Center, wanted the youth to have an opportunity to participate in the Ogden Tree Festival. In November, Debbie, Roni Partida and other Archway employees began teaching the youth to crochet. The goal: handmade decorations for a tree. Automatic Transmission Center learned of their desire and donated several supplies, including the tree. With the help of several of Debbie's friends, Karen Johnson and Wendy Stevenson, the youth finished crocheting the decorations within only 15 days. This was not a quick or simple task. The youth made 150 ornaments, 21 chains-each measuring 15 feet, a tree skirt and a star for the top. The tree skirt and star each took approximately 16 hours to complete.

The tree was decorated by the youth, with assistance from Archway employees. "Christmas Crochet" was the theme chosen for the tree and it was displayed in "The Christmas Jubilee" at Eccles Conference Center in Ogden. At the end of the event the tree was auctioned off and the money paid for the will benefit community members with special needs. A great gift from at-risk youth to those in need – way to go Archway youth and Youth Services Staff!



The Human Touch

DHS Administration 2007 Holiday Giving Campaign



Kathy Myers and Mary Carole Blackburn - OFO

Hundreds of refugees from Burma have relocated to Utah this year. Many of these refugees have spent years in refugee camps, waiting for asylum to the United States. Now that they are here, many are ill prepared for Utah's cold winter weather. The biggest problem: COLD FEET!!

To help warm the feet of these refugees, this year's DHS holiday giving campaign is a sock drive. The sock drive "kicked off" on Monday, December 3rd and runs thru Friday, December 21st. All socks are being donated to Welcome Hand, a charitable organization that provides assistance to refugees.

Seasons Greetings! from the Executive Director's Office



From Mark Ward

Deputy Director, Executive Director's Office

What is the best part of your job?

Helping people solve problems and achieve their goals.

What is your favorite movie?

The Killers, starring Ronald Reagan, Lee Marvin, Angie Dickinson and John Cassavetes.

Bad guys are mean to Angie and vice versa.

Close Second: Atlantic City, starring Burt Lancaster and Susan Sarandon.

Burt looks out to sea and says, "You should have seen the Atlantic Ocean in those days."

Where is your favorite place to vacation?

Bald Head Island, North Carolina – best beach in U.S.; no cars, a light house (Old Baldy), Cape Fear shipwrecks, golf course with gators, professional croquet and a wildlife sanctuary.



From Marie Christman

Deputy Director, Executive Director's Office

What is the best part of your job?

When I get the opportunity to hear or see firsthand, from employees on the frontline, a success story or positive difference they were able to make with an individual or family.

What is your favorite movie?

The Wizard of Oz

Close Second: Young Frankenstein

Where is your favorite place to vacation?

I have a few favorite places. My most favorite is San Francisco and Sonoma; however, the last couple of years it has been backpacking in the Grand Canyon. Last year I discovered spending time being pampered at a spa in Ixtapan del Sal Mexico for a week isn't a bad way to go either!



From Donna Russell

Acting Office of Public Guardian Director, Executive Director's Office

What is the best part of your job?

The opportunity to get to know our DHS staff across the state and divisions. I also enjoy seeing where connections can be made for services or information to improve.

What is your favorite movie?

This time of year, "It's a Wonderful Life".

Where is your favorite place to vacation?

Sitka, Alaska or anywhere in my kayak!

What did you enjoy most about working on The Human Touch?

Again, talking with and learning about the great staff we have across the state and divisions. I enjoyed working with people to tell their stories and share their enthusiasm for their jobs and clients!

Training Tidbits

Proper training is essential to best serving our consumers. Below are just a few of the upcoming training opportunities supported by the department:



Our best chance for happiness
is education.

Mark VanDorn

Facilitating Successful Transitions for Youth and Young Adults with Brain Injury: A CTAT Tele-Training

January 15, 2008

For additional/registration information
contact Miriam Coble, 303-636-5606, or visit
www.ctat-training.com

Autism/Asperger Educator Conference

February 13, 14 & 15, 2008

Ogden Eccles Conference Center
Ogden, Utah

For additional/registration information con-
tact Jennifer Hefti, 801-538-7874 or
jennifer.hefti@schools.utah.gov

HELP WANTED

Are you aware of a training or
conference that we don't have
listed in the Human Touch or
online?

If so, please notify Elizabeth
Sollis, esollis@utah.gov, 801-538-
4275.

You may also submit events
online on the department training
calendars,
www.hstraining.utah.gov.



WHEN MOM GETS BETTER, EVERYONE RECOVERS.

endmethnow.org

Happy Holidays!



Active Duty Troops

WE WANT YOU

To Know We're Thinking Of You!

The Human Touch

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